

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Cultural Arts Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 28, 2011 in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Rische led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Endo-Roberts, Korman,
Miranda, Rische, and Chairperson Candioly.

Absent: Commissioners Bunting and Shwarts.

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Rappoport and
Cultural Services Senior Supervisor Bell.

MOTION: Commissioner Miranda moved to grant Commissioners Bunting and Shwarts excused absences for the November 28, 2011 Commission meeting. Commissioner Korman seconded the motion; voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Korman moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Bunting and Shwarts).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2011

MOTION: Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved for the approval of the October 12, 2011 joint Cultural Arts Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Miranda seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Bunting and Shwarts).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

Richard Whitehorse, President of Arts Council of Torrance, provided background on the history of the Arts Council that give awards annually to at least 10 graduating high school students in various fields. He stated that funds are also extended to various local groups and students of small non-profit arts studios. He noted that membership and funding has decreased with the economic downturn. He distributed membership applications, asked for the Commission's support, and expressed interest in partnering with the Commission in ways that would mutually benefit each other.

Commissioner Korman mentioned that Commissioner Shwarts was on the judging panel last year and suggested that other Commissioners participate.

Mr. Whitehorse welcomed Commissioners' participation and stated that the panel begins meeting in February with auditions and final judging in April. He shared information about plans for a murder mystery fundraising event and noted that they are working on a website and program brochure.

In response to Chairperson Candioly's inquiry, he stated that there are currently 60 members.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE FESTIVAL

Manager Rappoport discussed plans for a Cherry Blossom Tree Festival tentatively scheduled for March 4, 2012 at Columbia Park. She stated that staff is working with Soka Gakkai International, Torrance Sister City Association, and Torrance Artist Guild to plan the event that would celebrate the annual blooming of cherry blossom trees.

7B. SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2012 MEETINGS

Manager Rappoport presented January 23 and February 27, 2012 as dates for Cultural Arts Commission meetings as regularly scheduled meetings fall on holidays. She reminded Commissioners that the Commission generally goes dark in December.

MOTION: Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to reschedule Cultural Arts Commission meetings for January 23, 2012 and February 27, 2012 and to adjourn the meeting to January 23, 2012. Commissioner Korman seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Bunting and Shwartz).

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

This item was taken out of order.

Cultural Services Consultant Powers provided information about the 2012 Works in Progress series "Visionaries" on February 29 - June 27, 2012. He distributed fliers and noted that the series has been selected as a Centennial event. He stated that the five presentations will feature five visionaries—Jared Sidney Torrance, Mother Jones, Zane Grey, Amy Lowell, and L. Frank Baum—who were significant in each of their careers in 1912. He discussed the life of Jared Sidney Torrance and noted that the performances will be aired on CitiCABLE.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF A PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT ON OFFERING CLASSES/PROGRAMS BY THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Manager Rappoport provided background on the October 12, 2011 Parks and Recreation Commission and Cultural Arts Commission joint meeting and requested that Commissioners review and approve the Philosophy Statement in the material of record prior to it being forward to City Council.

Commissioner Endo-Roberts stated that staff did a good job and covered everything that was discussed at the joint meeting, Commissioner Miranda noted the last paragraph reflected Commissioners' sentiments, and Chairperson Candioly stated that the bullet points worked out very well.

MOTION: Commissioner Miranda moved to approve the Philosophy Statement on Offering Classes/Programs by the Community Services Department as presented. Commissioner Rische seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval. (absent Commissioners Bunting and Shwarts).

8B. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS EVENT

Commissioner Endo-Roberts reported that the Excellence in Arts subcommittee met on November 28, 2011 to review the October 30, 2011 Excellence in Arts awards ceremony. She expressed appreciation to Performing Arts Specialist Infrerra who attended the meeting and offered suggestions for improvement that include the positioning of awardees, providing round tables for awardees, developing something for youth, changing the venue to the Armstrong Theatre, charging a small fee, and reviewing the application process. She stated that the committee is recommending that the full Commission nominate individuals for the Katy Geissert award and to consider that it be acceptable for Commissioners to nominate individuals for the other categories.

Commissioner Korman, with Commissioner Rische concurring, voiced her opposition to allowing Commissioners to nominate individuals because of a potential conflict of interest.

Following a brief discussion, Manager Rappoport suggested that staff write up the committee's recommendations for further discussion at the next Commission meeting as well as selecting Commissioners for subcommittees. She pointed out that there would be less pressure if Commissioners were allowed to make nominations. She noted that next year would be the 35th anniversary of the Excellence in Arts awards ceremony and that staff is considering showcasing previous award winners.

Mr. Whitehorse stated that the Arts Council has discussed the idea of presenting a student talent show to raise awareness of the talent in Torrance, with past winners being showcased. He voiced support for moving forward with the idea for the centennial celebration, noting that the Excellence in Arts ceremony would provide an excellent opportunity to promote youth talent.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

9A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

Previously discussed in Item 8B.

9B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Manager Rappoport reported that last week five core holes were drilled at Wilson Park in preparation for construction of the amphitheatre and preliminary analysis indicates that no rubble was found. She expects the formal report in a week and will bring back more information at the next meeting.

9C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Manager Rappoport distributed a letter from Shery High thanking the Commission for the grant for the Saturday Night Bath concert.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

10A. Manager Rappoport noted that the Cultural Services Division Report for October 2011 was included in agenda packets. She announced the opening of Torrance Theatre

Company's "Seven in One Blow & Partridge in a Pear Tree" on December 2, 2011. She announced that South Bay Focus opens on December 2, 2011 at Torrance Art Museum and that Torrance Civic Chorale will present their annual holiday concert on December 8-9, 2011.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

11A. Commissioner Endo-Roberts stated that she enjoyed visits to Gene Autry museum, Japanese American National Museum, a Los Angeles County and City exhibit at U.S.C., and Bowers Museum.

11B. Commissioner Miranda stated that he has been working hard for United Health Care's annual open enrollment for Medicare and enjoyed the "Loves of Magmo Rubio" at the Ford Theatre.

11C. Commissioner Rische stated that she attended a wedding in Boston on 11/11/11.

11D. Commissioner Korman distributed fliers for Torrance Symphony's "The Torrance Centennial Celebration" on January 21, 2012. She stated that the L.A. Vocal Choir who performed at West High was wonderful and that they were proud to be an award recipient. She recommended the film "Hugo."

11E. Chairperson Candioly stated that he has been busy traveling on business but had the opportunity to visit the Wilcott's Gallery in Big Bear.

11F. Consultant Powers stated that he is laying the groundwork for the 2013 Works in Progress, if funding is available, and that it will center on the 110th anniversary of Korean-American immigration.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:10 p.m., Commissioner Miranda moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, January 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Candioly so ordered.

Approved as Amended January 23, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
